

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROD
SLYHOFF, PRESIDENT/CEO,
PUEBLO CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2021

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 1, 2021, the city of Pueblo lost a community leader and business champion with the passing of Rod Slyhoff. Mr. Slyhoff started at the Chamber in 1988 and served as an account representative, membership director, Vice President of Membership and Small Business Development, and later became President/CEO in 1994.

As one of the city's best advocates and greatest boosters, he oversaw a period of growth for the Chamber with membership expanding from 800 to more than 1,300 members.

Mr. Slyhoff's accomplishments were remarkable, and he led the Pueblo Chamber to become a model for others across the West. He helped strengthen Pueblo's relationship with one of its sister cities—Chihuahua, Mexico—by developing trade exchanges of business and tourism. He also advanced Pueblo's business agenda at the State Capitol and offered solutions for improving the workforce to the National Education Trust Conferences.

Always an advocate for others, Rod increased the Chamber's involvement with the El Pomar Foundation and the Black, Latino and Asian Emerging Leadership programs. He also served as President of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce Executives, a member of the United Way of Pueblo board, and chairman of the Southern Colorado Business Partnership.

Mr. Slyhoff was recognized for his heartfelt service to the community, and he was awarded the United Way Ambassador Award for Excellence, the Southern Colorado Press Club Mel Harmon Community Award, and the Colorado State University-Pueblo President's Medallion for Distinguished Service.

Rod Slyhoff encouraged local engagement, facilitated cultural development, and spread joy throughout the community by founding the Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival in 1994 which has brought as many as 150,000 people to Pueblo annually. Because of Rod, the "Pueblo Chile" is known throughout the world, and his legacy will endure through the Festival every year.

Mr. Slyhoff had a quick wit, was kind to everyone, and was beloved by his community. He was quick to give a listening ear and offer gentle advice. I want to take this opportunity to celebrate his life and legacy and to offer my deepest sympathies to his wife Alice, daughters Katrina and Marcy, and the rest of Rod's family and friends. May they find comfort in the words of Scripture, "the Lord is close to the brokenhearted." God bless the memory of Rod Slyhoff.

RECOGNITION OF STEVEN
GAUTSCH

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steven Gautsch on winning the Silver Key and an Honorable Mention Award at the 2021 Central PA Scholastic Art and Writing Competition.

Steven attends Bermudian Springs High School near York Springs, Pennsylvania and is passionate about art. His photography has garnered him two awards at the 2021 Central PA Scholastic Art and Writing Competition, which was first established in 1923 to support teenage artists and writers.

Congratulations to Steven on this remarkable achievement, and I wish him continued success as he pursues his love of art.

HONORING MATT CONSTANTINE'S RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN KERN COUNTY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague DAVID G. VALADAO, to honor Matthew Constantine for his nearly three decades of public service to our community. After dedicating 27 years of his life to government service, and protecting the health and safety of the people of Kern County, an area that I represent, Matt is concluding his tenure this month as the Director of Kern County Public Health Services Department for Kern County, a position he has held since 2009.

Matt was born and raised in Bakersfield, California and earned both his bachelor's and graduate degree from California State University, Northridge. His family has had roots in Bakersfield for five generations, and he has worked at various levels of government, including with the Federal Indian Health Service and the State of California. In 2006, he was hired as Kern County's Director of Environmental Services. In 2009, Matt spearheaded the merger between two different departments and became the Director of Public Health Services for the county.

Matt had already informed the Kern County Board of Supervisors of his intent to retire as the Director of Public Health Services when the Coronavirus pandemic hit. But instead of retiring, Matt stayed on to serve our community and began crafting a plan to reduce patient caseloads at local hospitals and keep the people of Kern County healthy and safe. During his time with the Department of Public Health Services, Matt always displayed leadership, especially over the course of this stressful past year, by balancing local needs with state mandates while never shying away from making tough decisions. Despite many early days and long nights, Matt's work ethic has been critical for our local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was exemplified by the routine COVID-19 updates he gave to the

residents of the county over the last 12 months, and despite the State of California's constantly changing guidance for residents and public health officials, Matt always had one goal in mind—to create and execute a plan to combat the transmission of the virus in our community and keep mortality rates in Kern County down until a vaccine was able to be offered to every resident who wanted one.

Matt is more than just the leader of our local public health response; he is an active member of the Kern County community. He serves on the board of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce and the Kern County Network for Children, where his vision and expertise have been influential in making decisions and impacting others.

I always appreciated Matt's insight and wisdom on the public health matters affecting our community, and although we are going to miss Matt, I am confident that his record of success will continue to benefit our county for years to come. On behalf of the people of the 23rd Congressional District of California, and the people of Kern County as a whole, I want to thank Matt for his service to our community, and I wish him only the best as he embarks on the next chapter in his life.

CONDEMNING MILITARY COUP IN BURMA

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 134, Condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military detention of civilian leaders, calling for the release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in Parliament to resume their duties, and for other purposes. I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of this important resolution.

On February 1st the Burmese military shocked the world when it launched a coup against the democratically elected government of State Councilor Aung San Suu Kyi, declared a national state of emergency, and arrested civilian members of the government.

Since the coup, chaos has gripped the country. The military shut down the internet and imposed martial law. The Burmese people, insistent that their country continue down the path toward democracy, have taken to the streets to protest the military's actions, and the military has responded by killing at least 200 civilians, including more than 60 on Sunday, March 14th, and arresting thousands.

As the oldest democracy in the world, the United States must clearly and unequivocally condemn the Burmese military's brutal and authoritarian crackdown and violence against its own people. Burma has made significant progress in transitioning toward democracy in recent years, and it is heartbreaking to see this progress squandered in the blink of an eye.

I echo President Biden's call for the Burmese military to immediately relinquish power, release detained officials, and refrain from using violence against peaceful protesters. I also support President Biden's decision to impose sanctions on military leaders in Burma